

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 and 31-39 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments of typographical nature have been made to the specification. Amendments to claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31 have been made. Claim 30 was cancelled without prejudice as to its subject matter. New claims 32-39 were added without introducing new subject matter. The amendments to the claims contained herein are intended to broaden the scope thereof, or are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

In the drawing of FIG. 1, the reference number 132 was inadvertently used to designate two different elements. Applicant has attached a revised drawing for the Examiner's approval. In the Replacement Sheet 1, the reference number for the bitting of the key 120 has been changed from 132 to 133. This amendment is indicated in the ATTACHED Annotated Sheet 1.

Corresponding amendments have been made in the specification.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification to correct some minor typographical errors and to change the reference number for the bitting of the key 120 from 132 to 133 in accordance to the amendment to FIG. 1 discussed above.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. The attached "Replacement Sheet 1," which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet 1 including Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8, 12, 24, 27-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Raymond et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,376,382). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, Raymond et al. fails to disclose a coupling element integral with the rider element, wherein the coupling element is positionable between a first position wherein the base element is coupled to the rider element and a second position wherein the base element is uncoupled from the rider element, and wherein the coupling element is moved by the re-keying mechanism, as claim 1 recites. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and therefore claims 3-6, 8 and 12 that ultimately depend from claim 1, are not anticipated by Raymond et al.

Regarding independent claim 24, Raymond et al. fails to disclose a re-keying tool insertable in a re-keying slot offset from the key slot, as amended claim 24 recites. Therefore, claim 24 is not anticipated by Raymond et al., and for similar reasons, independent claim 27, and claims 26-29 and 31 that ultimately depend from claim 27, are not anticipated by Raymond et al. Claim 30 has been cancelled without prejudice regarding its subject matter.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these §102 rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-18, 20, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raymond et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,376,382) in view of Bolton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,417). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bolton is not combinable with Raymond without destroying the functionality of Raymond et al., or at least without significant modifications and changes in operation that are not suggested therein. Furthermore, Raymond et al. and Bolton, either individually or, for the sake of argument, in combination, fail to disclose all the elements of the rejected claims as discussed below.

Regarding independent claim 13, Raymond et al and Bolton fail to disclose a coupling element integral with the rider element, wherein the coupling element is positionable between a first position wherein the base element is coupled to the rider element and a second position wherein the base element is uncoupled from the rider element, and wherein the coupling element is moved by the re-keying mechanism, as claim 13 recites. Accordingly, independent claim 13, and therefore claims 14-18, and 20 that ultimately depend from claim 13, are patentable over Raymond et al. in view of Bolton.

Regarding claims 25 and 26, it is noted that these claims depend from amended claim 24, which, as discussed in connection with the §102 rejections above, is not anticipated by Raymond et al. Without admitting that Bolton is combinable with Raymond et al., Applicant submits that the combination, were it possible or proper, would still fail to disclose all the elements of claims 25 and 26. Therefore, claims 25 and 26 are patentable over Raymond et al. in view of Bolton.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 7, 9-11, 19, 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that these claims depend from amended claims that are patentable, as discussed above. New claims 32-39 have been added to capture in broader scope some of the subject matter that the originally allowable claims encompass. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 9-11, 19, 21-23 and new claims 32-39 should be allowable.

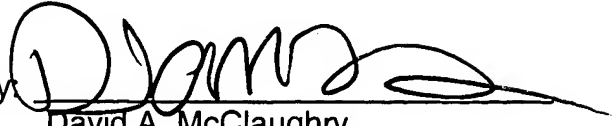
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 4, 2004

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McClaughry', written over a horizontal line.

David A. McClaughry

Reg. No. 37,885

Maria Comninou

Reg. No. 44,626

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

DAM/MAC/pal



1/7

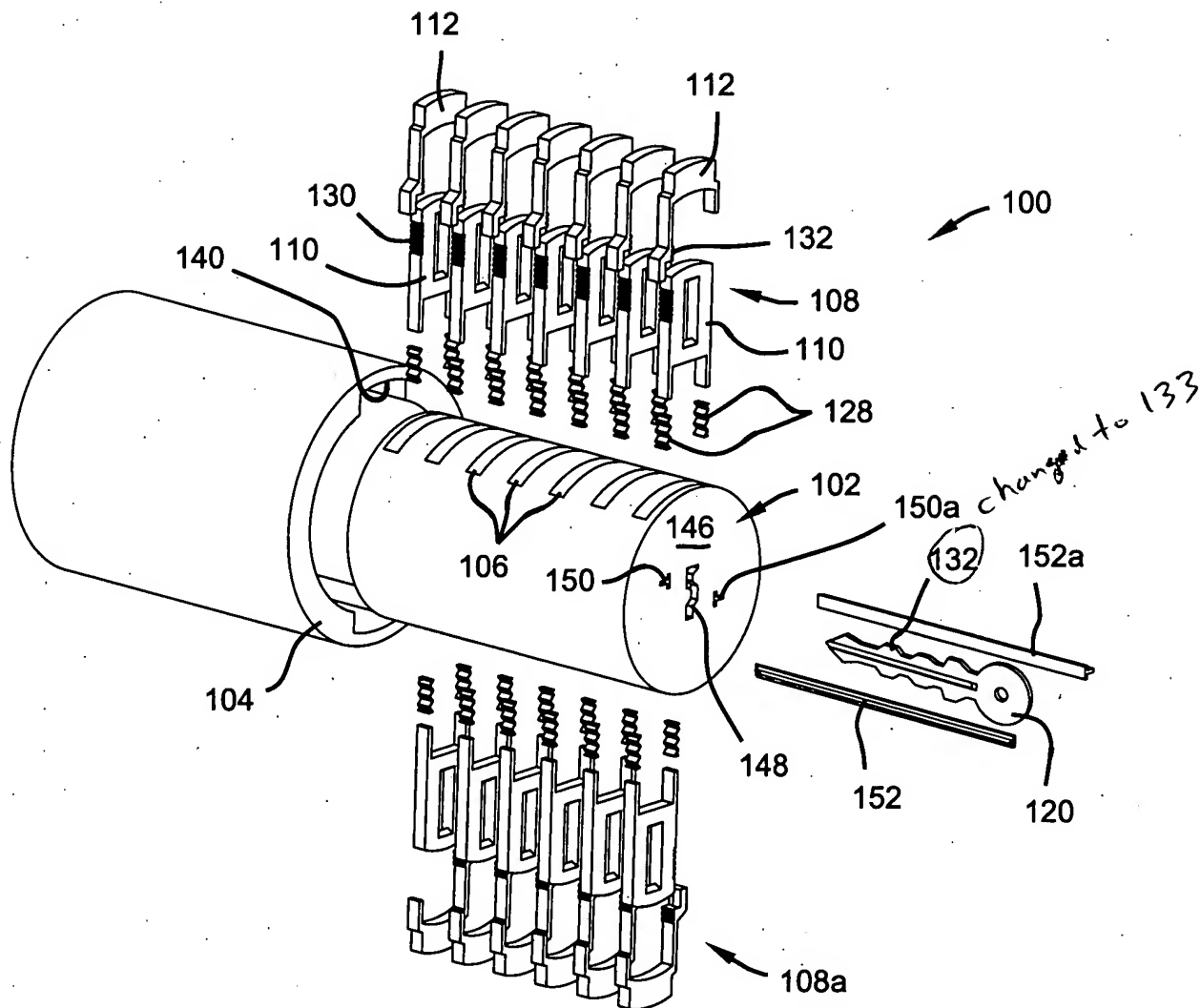


FIG 1